

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, claims 21-40 have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. §121 between the following allegedly distinct Groups:

Group I: Claims 21-28, drawn to a package conveying device in a filling machine;  
and

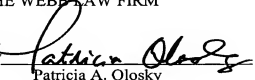
Group II: Claims 29-40, drawn to a method for conveying packages.

Group I of the present invention is directed to a package conveying device and Group II of the present invention is drawn to a method of conveying packages using the device of Group I. As such, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction of Groups I and II on the grounds that Applicants believe a search with respect to Group I would be co-extensive with a search directed toward Group II and, therefore, would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. However, should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement as to Groups I and II, Applicants provisionally elect Group I for initial examination.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the restriction requirement between Groups I and II is respectfully requested. Applicants reserve their right to file a divisional application or take such other appropriate measures as they deem necessary to protect the inventions lying within Group II.

Respectfully submitted,  
THE WEBB LAW FIRM

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